

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 313320
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DRAFTED BY: EB/AVP:JGORDON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS STATE 313320

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT BANGKOK 34744, SENT SECSTATE 29 DEC 76:

QUOTE UNCLAS BANGKOK 34744

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR SIAM ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS

1. AIR SIAM MANAGING DIRECTOR VIVID VICHITVADAKARN, CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 29 TO ANNOUNCE COMPANY WOULD CEASE OPERATIONS JANUARY 1.

2. VIVID STATED A THREE-POINT PROPOSAL HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE: AIR SIAM ONLY WISHES TO BE A SMALL AIRLINE WITHOUT IN ANY WAY COMPETING WITH THAI INTERNATIONAL

B. SEVERAL BANKERS AND FINANCIERS ARE STILL WILLING TO
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HELP AIR SIAM, AND THERE IS EVERY POSSIBILITY THAT THE AIRLINE COULD OPERATE ON A PROFITABLE BASIS IF THE GOVERNMENT MAKES A POSITIVE POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE AIRLINES.

C. AIR SIAM IS WILLING TO CO-OPERATE WITH THAI INTERNATIONAL.
END QUOTE

3. PRESS INDICATES VIVID ALSO DISCLOSED AIR SIAM HAD
PRE-SOLD AN ESTIMATED 100 MILLION BAHT (DOLS 5 MILLION)
WORTH OF AIR TICKETS AND MONIES WILL NOT BE REFUNDED TO
BUYERS.

4. VIVID DECLARED EMPLOYEES ON PAYROLL WOULD CONTINUE TO
DRAW SALARIES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS RTG CLARIFIES ITS POLICIES.

5. AIR SIAM'S FLIGHT TO HONOLULU VIA HONG KONG AND TOKYO
WAS CANCELLED DECEMBER 29 ON GROUNDS AIRCRAFT HAD MECHANICAL
FAILURE. WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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